Hi there!

Congratulations on being accepted to Carleton! As Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, I am happy to hear about your interest in mathematics or statistics, and I am writing to tell you a little about our department. You can find much more information, including our departmental newsletter, the Goodsell Gazette, on our web page https://www.carleton.edu/math/.

Beyond our calculus, linear algebra, and introduction to proofs courses, we offer a wide variety of upper level courses, majors in both Mathematics and Statistics, and a minor in Mathematics. Our regular course offerings go beyond what you might expect from a standard undergraduate program, both in depth (we have courses like Topics in Abstract Algebra and Real Analysis II) and in breadth (we have courses like Chaotic Dynamical Systems and Differential Geometry). Every year we have special seminars on topics like Set Theory, Elliptic Curves, and Combinatorial Games. Regular course offerings in Statistics include Probability, Statistical Inference, Applied Regression Analysis, Data Science, Bayesian Inference, and Survey Sampling Techniques.

Outside the classroom, students enjoy our series of colloquia from people like Ken Ono, Jessica Utts, Robert Ghrist, James Tanton, and Eugenia Cheng. Each year several of our majors study off campus in Hungary in the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program. About one-third of our majors have a second major, most frequently in Economics, Computer Science, or Physics. We have an active group in recreational problem solving, who regularly compete in the nationwide Putnam and regional Konhauser Problemfest. Our teams have generally been quite successful in these competitions, often winning the Konhauser, and usually placing among the top 10% of all teams on the Putnam. We also have an active mathematical modeling group: this year four Carleton teams competed in the annual SCUDEM - SIMIODE Challenge Using Differential Equations Modeling. Just as in the college as a whole, students in our department tend to see each other as friends and co-workers rather than competitors, and they encourage and support each other in their efforts to live up to their own high standards. There are many social activities organized by students and faculty, ranging from picnics and game tournaments to pumpkin-carving contests.

Our department is actively committed to building and sustaining a community in which everyone feels welcome, especially people from groups who have historically been underserved by the mathematics and statistics world. Faculty members individually mentor all majors within the department, welcoming them into the mathematics and statistics community both locally and nationally and helping them find their place in it. In particular, we reach out to majors who are members of underserved groups and connect them with summer opportunities and additional programs. One of these programs is the National Math Alliance, which is designed to encourage students from traditionally underserved groups to pursue advanced degrees in mathematics and statistics. Within the department, SWiMS+ (the Society for Women in Mathematics and Statistics) hosts several events each term to bring together women and non-binary majors or potential majors to build community and
foster a sense of belonging. Senior and junior women mentor women who are considering majoring in our department. Women faculty and students make pizza together, network with other women's groups on and off campus, have informational panels on careers and graduate school in math and stats, and form a support network for each other. And in each of the past two years a faculty member has taken a van full of women students on a road-trip to the Nebraska Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics, where they had an amazing time meeting sister mathematicians from across the country and hearing some first-rate talks and informational panels.

Mathematics and statistics majors who want to continue their education after Carleton find their degrees serve them well. Recent math graduate students have gone to graduate programs at Berkeley, CalTech, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Dartmouth, and Cornell. Recent statistics graduate students have gone to graduate programs at Harvard, the University of Washington, and Stanford. Data from 2009-2018 show that Carleton ranks second among all liberal arts colleges in the proportion of graduates who earn doctoral degrees in mathematics and statistics. Students who do not go to graduate school after Carleton typically find a variety of interesting opportunities available when they graduate. Activities of recent alumni range from social policy research, transportation engineering, business consulting, financial analysis, software development, and secondary math education.

Perhaps the most important thing our department can offer you, though, is the expertise, energy, enthusiasm, and dedication of our faculty. It is a lot of fun to teach here, and we try to make it just as much fun for our students. We will challenge you, help you when you need it, and enjoy getting to know you. If you have questions or comments about our program, I would be glad to hear from you. You can reach me via email at eegge@carleton.edu.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Eric Egge, Chair